High Level Committee with the objective of formulating a tariff policy as envisages under section 13(e) of the ERC Act.

Setting-up Gas-based and Thermal Power Plants in Assam

859. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas-based and thermal power plants proposed to be set up in Assam;

(b) the steps taken by Government to expedite the completion of these plants in the State; and

(c) by when these plants are likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) The Lakwa Waste Heat Recovery Project (1×38 MW) has been included in the capacity addition programme of Assam during the 10th plan. The project does not require Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) as the cost of the project is less than the limit prescribed by the Government for appraisal of projects. The project can be commissioned within 21 months from the date of placement of order on turn-key basis. CEA's comments on the technical and cost aspects have been communicated to the Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB).

Completion of hydro-electric projects

†860. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have emphasised the need for completing the hydro-electric projects within a period of four years and every possible assistance has been assured by the Ministry in this regard;

(b) whether any direction has been issued in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) to (c) With the object of reducing the time and cost over-run of hydro projects so far as they relate to inadequate investigation and non-availability of proper infrastructure in terms of access roads and land, the Government has introduced a three stage clearance process for development of new hydro-electric porjects in the Central Sector. The progress of important porjects in the Central, State and Private Sectors is also reviewed by

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.